MINUTES

# HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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| **DATE:** | Thursday, January 26, 2023 |
| **TIME:** | 1:30 P.M. |
| **PLACE:** | Room EW42 |
| **MEMBERS:** | Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Boyle, Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Gallagher, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Mathias, Nash, Roberts |
| **ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** | None |
| **GUESTS:** | The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library. |

**Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Dr. Michael P. Parella**, University of Idaho (U of I), Dean, College of Agricultural and Life Science (CALS), introduced **Brent Olmestead**, **Carly Schoepflin**, and **Barbara Petty** from the U of I, CALS, and reported on the Land Grant Mission, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and Extension and CALS enrollment status, capital projects faculty and staff retention/ turnover.

**Dean Parrella** explained the Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (CAFE) will be the country's largest and most advanced research center targeting the dairy and allied industries. The dairy will have a herd size of 2,000 animals and will be located in the heart of the state's dairy producing region. While research data generated at CAFE will have broad implications across the U.S., the semi-arid environment where most of Idaho's dairies are located will make CAFE's research indispensable in the water-constrained West. An accompanying soil health demonstration farm will explore long-term sustainablilty in the region by addressing water usage constraints and environmental quality while also supporting the dairy, livestock, cropland and food processing industries. Through applied research, teaching and Extension, CAFE will be a sustainable agriculture system focused on providing global solutions to ongoing issues facing agriculture, food, the environment and society now and for years to come. CALS will build a Deep Soil Ecotron to study soils at great depths. Scientists worldwide will use the facility to improve understanding of how deep soil organisms react to unprecedented conditions, how soil systems respond to agricultural practices and how well they sequester carbon.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

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Representative Andrus
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary